

REMARKS

In the January 4, 2005 Office Action, the Examiner noted that claims 1-19 were pending in the application and were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a). In rejecting the claims, U.S. Patents 6,233,471 to Egger et al. (Reference A in the November 17, 2003 Office Action) and 6,289,342 to Lawrence et al. (Reference B in the January 4, 2005 Office Action) were cited. Claims 1-19 remain in the case. The Examiner's rejections are traversed below.

Newly Cited Prior Art: U.S. Patent 6,239,342 to Lawrence et al.

The Lawrence et al. patent is directed to a system which "autonomously locates new articles, extract[s] citations, identifies citations to the same article which occur in different formats, ... identifies the context of citations in the bodies of articles" (column 5, lines 53-56) and "combines the use of automatic citation indexing and keyword indexing" (column 6, lines 63-64). The only explanation of how this is accomplished in what was cited by the Examiner is "citation identifiers are used to find the locations in the document body where the citations are actually made ... [to allow for] extraction of the context of the citations" (column 9, lines 31-34) and that "heuristics [are] used to parse citations" (column 9, lines 35).

Rejections under 35 USC § 103(a)

In item 5 on pages 2-10 of the Office Action, claims 1-19 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as unpatentable over Egger et al. in view of Lawrence et al. Independent claims 1, 4, 5, 10 and 12-18 have been amended in various ways to recite storing "correspondence between reference features and reference reasons" (claim 1, lines 2-3) and "identifying a reason indicating why the referred document is cited by retrieving the reason ... using the feature in the neighborhood of the position as a reference feature" (claim 1, lines 9-12). No suggestion has been cited or found in Lawrence et al. or Egger et al. of "a reference feature/reference reason correspondence table" (claim 1, line 2), as described at page 34, line 1 to page 35, line 22 or any other data structure "indicating correspondence between reference features and reference reasons" (claim 1, lines 2-3). Therefore, it is submitted that claims 1-18 patentably distinguish over Egger et al. in view of Lawrence et al. for at least the reasons discussed above.

Claim 19 has been amended to recite

a pattern data list storage device storing pieces of pattern information which indicates that documents are cited; [and] a reference position extracting device extracting information about a position where the referred document is cited in the document data by

searching the document data for a pattern which matches one of the pieces of pattern information

(claim 19, lines 5-9). No suggestion of anything that performs the operations of the device as quoted above has been cited or found in either Lawrence et al. or Egger et al. Therefore, it is submitted that claim 19 patentably distinguishes over the combination of these two references.

Summary

It is submitted that the references cited by the Examiner, taken individually or in combination, do not teach or suggest the features of the feature claimed invention. Thus, it is submitted that claims 1-19 are in a conditions suitable for allowance. Reconsideration of the claims and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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